

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2017
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

PRESENT:

Commissioners Anthony Dawson, Chairperson; Kevin Diaz;
Stephen Garcia; Evelise Ribeiro; and Gregory Smith

Assistant Achilles Generoso: Department of Police Service
Assistant Chief Otoniel Reyes: Department of Police Service
Captain Anthony Duff: Department of Police Service
Detective Daniel Conklin: Department of Police Service
Officer Craig Miller: Elm City Local
Ramona Davis: Administrative Assistant

Michael Wolak: Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel, New Haven

Miguel Pittman, Sr.: Community and Police Relations Task Force
Markeshia Ricks: New Haven Independent
Marshall Segar: Counsel for Elm City Local

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Anthony Dawson, Chairperson, presiding.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussions and Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of November 14, 2017.

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved Approval of the Minutes of November 14, 2017**
- ** Commissioner Diaz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

WRITTEN LEGAL OPINION

Presentation of written legal opinion in executive session to the Board of Police Commissioners on resignation, rescission of resignation and role of the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** Commissioner Smith moved to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Written Legal Opinion**
- ** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Exit Executive Session**
- ** Commissioner Diaz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Smith moved to Amend the Agenda to Address Personnel Matters**
- ** Commissioner Diaz seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Consideration and vote on whether it is necessary for the Board of Police Commissioners to vote on the rehiring of Detective Daniel Conklin.

- ** Commissioner Ribeiro motioned that based on a legal opinion and the fact that Detective Daniel officially resigned effective November 27, 2017 and requested to return to the Department on November 29, 2017 that it is necessary for the Board of Police Commissioners to vote on rehiring Detective Daniel Conklin as there was a lapse in employment**
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

■ Chief Anthony Campbell recommended the rehiring of Detective Daniel Conklin by the Board since the Board had determined a vote is necessary. It will be effective November 29, 2017.

- ** Commissioner Garcia moved to Rehire Detective Daniel Conklin Effective November 29, 2017**
- ** Commissioner Diaz seconded**

■ Commissioner Ribeiro asked Detective Daniel Conklin if he would like to be heard in an open or closed session. He opted for a closed session.

■ Commissioner Garcia rescinded his motion as did Commissioner Diaz.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Enter Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters**
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:39 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Exit Executive Session**
- ** Commissioner Garcia seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.

- ** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Rehire Detective Daniel Conklin Effective November 29, 2017**
- ** Commissioner Smith seconded**
- Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith**
- ** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Assistant Chief Anthony Campbell

- Chief Campbell thanked the Board for coming to the meeting especially in light of rescheduling the meeting from the 12th to the 18th of December, 2017 due to inclement weather.
- Year-to-date statistics are phenomenal. Last year at this time there were 13 homicides. Currently there are seven homicides. Last year at this time there were 63 shootings; currently, there are 57 shootings. Last year at this time there were 157 shots were fired; from January 1 through December 17 there were 133 shots fired. Robberies are also down by 11 percent.
- Homicides in Bridgeport are in their 20s. Hartford is approaching 30 homicides. Shootings in both cities are beyond New Haven.
- A lot of the phenomenal statistics have to do with Project Longevity.
- Mr. Stacy Spell of Project Longevity continues to press forward and lead the charge without pay due to the state's fiscal crisis.
- Assistant Chief Generoso stated that the hope is that by the middle of January the staff at Project Longevity will get paid.
- Project Longevity is the staple of making sure that these numbers are what they are.
- There were 150 conditional offers sent. The Department received 130 responses. Those are being processed presently in order to seat a class by the end of February, beginning of March.
- The Department has been approved for 40 recruits. The goal is to start another class of 40 within two or three months after the first class. The two classes will run simultaneously.
- One hundred and thirty people are eligible for leave in December of 2018. Some people have already started the process.
- The Department will be losing two officers to the Hamden Police Department. Both officers stated they were leaving the Department due to financial reasons.
- The Department is in the process of contract negotiations. The administration has been working closely with Mr. Tom McCarthy, the Director of Labor Relations, about some of the things that it feels needs to be implemented in the new contract.
- Mayor Toni Harp is 100 percent committed to making sure this process moves along as quickly as possible. All parties have a vested interest in getting this done as quickly as possible.

- Body-worn cameras have been deployed without a hitch. There are well over 200 officers equipped with body-worn cameras.
- Beginning in the first week in January, 2018 the training and deployment of the remainder of the body-worn cameras will take place so that by the end of January the entire Department will be outfitted.
- There has been ongoing review of footages received. They have been very helpful with training. Additional training is given when deemed necessary. These body-worn cameras in conjunction with the other tools given to the officers have proven to be rather effective.
- The community seems to be receiving the use of body-worn cameras very well.
- The Department is acclimating very well to the body-worn cameras.
- The Department will be moving to order 10 new SUVs which will be given to the district managers. The district managers' vehicles will be given to the sergeants, etc. This will help supervisors move around and patrol the city and, if necessary, deploy officers in inclement weather as has been done previously.
- There will be a Detectives' Test next year. The examination will be in place in April or May of 2018.
- Assistant Chief Generoso added that the test would probably be posted on April 1st, 2018. The Department will be able to encompass the last two classes hired in order to get a bigger pool to draw from.
- There was a Capital Budget Review and the Department came in \$200,000 below what was expected so much so that the Department received \$100,000 back.
- On Thursday, 12/21/2017 there will be a meeting with the Board of Alders to get the 100,000-dollar donation by Yale in order for the Department to purchase a new command post which will cost approximately \$300,000.
- Crowd control set up by Assistant Chief Reyes has been going extremely well so much so that during the Connecticut State Police's after-action review of an incident on Route 34 they came to learn that about the Department's crowd control and asked to witness and participate in the Department's crowd-control exercises.
- Additionally, the equipment required for crowd control has been ordered in the event of any large-scale incidents.
- A press conference will be scheduled in the first few weeks of January to discuss all the Department's accomplishments this year.
- Other agencies around the country and the world are coming to visit the Department to learn about how it is achieving its successes. Two of Mexico's violent towns are visiting in February, 2018.
- The Department will do all it can to attract officers, but also to get this union contract underway in order to retain officers.
- There are lots more officers contemplating leaving the Department. However, the administration has been able to speak to officers contemplating resignation about their opportunities in the long term within the Department to avert potential resignations.
- A lot of times when that is shared on a one-on-one basis helping them understand the great opportunities they have in the Department, many of them have made decisions to stay. Chief Campbell gave lots of credit to Assistant Chief Generoso and Assistant Chief Reyes for taking the time to speak with these young officers on a one-on-one basis.

- Commissioner Garcia asked if the Assistant Chiefs are getting body-worn cameras. Chief Campbell responded by saying that all sworn personnel will have a body-worn camera. Chief Campbell was wearing his.
- Commissioner Dawson stated that he thought that the gun buy-back program was really successful this past weekend.
- Chief Campbell stated the Department broke its record of 103 and wound up with 140 guns. It was phenomenal.
- Assistant Chief Generoso said the Department's gun buy-back program made *The New York Times*.
- Commissioner Dawson asked about the downtown homeless people and panhandlers.
- Chief Campbell stated that the Department has been working closely with Lieutenant Mark O'Neill who is assigned to the downtown. The Department has been doing Project Green Thumb. Right now the Department is doing a little more enforcement, making more arrests. The Department has also been trying to implement its new LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program which was launched about three weeks ago. Chief Campbell has been assured that there are a few members who qualify for it so people are being diverted to the right agencies to get the help they need. Incarceration is not necessarily the answer given that a lot of the panhandlers have substance abuse issues.
- Chief Campbell spoke about the homicide at the APT Foundation. The Department sat down with them. Chief Generoso was instrumental in working with them to talk about the reality and importance of hiring extra-duty officers. They have agreed to hire extra-duty officers in order to curtail the unwanted activities.
- The Department is having the APT Foundation, from a medical standpoint; analyze the number of people it is servicing to ensure they are not exceeding the parameters under which they should be operating. The Department is taking it very seriously.
- Assistant Chief Generoso added that there are two facilities (Waterbury and West Haven) ready to be operational, but that they are awaiting proper certification from the State of Connecticut.
- Chief Generoso expressed to the APT Foundation that in spite of its willingness to do the right thing, while awaiting state certification, something has to be done immediately to address the community's concerns and that is to hire extra-duty officers. Mayor Toni Harp, Chief Campbell and Mr. Michael Carter have made that a priority. So an extra-duty officer is assigned there every day. And it's been working well.
- Commissioner Dawson suggested that the commissioners communicate via letters with the police commissioners in West Haven and Waterbury about this issue.
- Commissioner Diaz asked about the Wintergreen facility. Chief Campbell stated that the shooting range is pretty much done. It will be fully operational in the second week of January. There will be a press conference to celebrate opening up the brand new shooting range. This has been a major issue for decades in Newhallville. It would be great to relief for the community.

CORPORATION COUNSEL REPORT

(Executive session.)

INTERNAL AFFIARS REPORT

Captain Anthony Duff

■ Year-to-date IA complaints (comprising civilian and internal complaints) are at 71 compared to 73 at the same time last year and 63 at the same time in 2015. In 2015 there were 66 complaints and 79 complaints in 2016. In spite of there being three times as many Tasers on the street compared to a year ago, the deployment numbers are in the same ballpark as last year.

Credit should be given to the training and a number of other factors.

■ There was a request for the staff or the interns to crunch the numbers for firearm displays. There are probably more firearm displays than there are with Tasers, laser or unholstering.

■ Captain Duff stated he pulled one week just for the end of November and the first week of December and there were three.

■ Officers were sent to a hotel for some wanted subjects and one officer pulled out his/her weapon at one of the wanted subjects. A use-of-force form has to be filled out. They were taken into custody without incident.

■ Officers responded to a report of someone with a knife at 825 Chapel Street. It turned out that he was armed with scissors but was stopped at gunpoint after the subject refused to comply with the officers' commands to show his hands. The subject was taken into custody without incident.

■ This last incident occurred two days ago on Ferry and Peck. A subject threatened someone with a handgun. Officers responded to a person fitting the description in the same general area and stopped the individual at gunpoint who refused to show his hands and move his hands from his waistband after repeated commands. Officers approached the subject who proceeded to fight with the officers. Eventually, the 22-year-old subject was bitten by a canine on the leg. He in fact had the loaded .38-caliber revolver and additional rounds. Again, use-of-force form is done for stopping him at gunpoint and for the dog bite.

■ And end-of-year firearms display reporting will be done for the Department and also for state reporting. So the Department will have those numbers for the commissioners.

■ Closed cases: A female complainant felt that the other individual should have been arrested. The officer was thought to have acted properly. This lady had pushed a child out of a car and punched her mother. The complainant felt that because her mother tried to restrain her, her mother should have been arrested. It was by the book and the charges were appropriate. The case is still pending in court.

■ A reverend complained about pulling into his driveway and that an officer engaged in unnecessary banter accusing him of smoking weed. The supervisor investigated and agreed that the officer engaged in unnecessary banter. So a patrol inspection report was done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** Commissioner Diaz moved to Enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and drafts of reports**

**** Commissioner Ribeiro seconded**

Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith

**** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

**** Commissioner Garcia moved to Exit Executive Session**

**** Commissioner Smith seconded**

Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith

**** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:42 p.m.

RETIREMENTS (For Board Information Only)

Officer Sheree Smith – eff. 12/1/2017 Service-Connected Disability

RESIGNATIONS (For Board Information Only)

Detective Daniel Conklin - eff. 11/27/2017

Detective Daniel Conklin - eff. 11/29/2017 Resignation Rescinded

Officer Gregory Dash - eff. 12/23/2017

Officer Andrew Tomer - eff. 12/25/2017

RECRUITMENT/SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no Recruitment/Selection Committee Report.

EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE REPORT

■ Commissioner Diaz stated he has an overtime report by department. All commissioners got a copy of this. Overtime this month has been driven by body-worn camera training (120 officers), crowd-control management (60 officers); officers downtown for high number of visitors to the hotel and restaurants which is good for tourism; and backfilling of these officers for training and vacation.

■ Commissioner Diaz stated that it shows on the report that overtime is Patrol Supervisor driven mainly. And then the third largest item is the Detention Center. Chief Campbell responded yes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

■ Commissioner Diaz said his report his Efficiency Committee Report included Finance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Officer Christian Bruckhart – Reimbursement for Damaged Glasses.

**** Commissioner Ribeiro moved to Table Officer Bruckhart's Request for Reimbursement in Order to get more Information**

**** Commissioner Garcia seconded**

Voting for: Commissioners Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith

**** Motion passed (4-0-0)**

**** Commissioner Dawson moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting**

**** Commissioner Diaz seconded**

Voting for: Commissioners Dawson, Diaz, Garcia, Ribeiro and Smith

**** Motion passed (5-0-0)**

■ Commissioner Dawson wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Board adjourned at 7:47 p.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for 1/8/2018

Respectfully submitted,

Sotonye Otunba-Payne